

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
an input unit for inputting first image data and icon image data;  
a determining unit for determining a display position of the icon image;

and

a display control unit for superimposing one of the first image and the icon image on the other and displaying the first and icon images on a monitor such that the icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining unit,

wherein the determining unit determines successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image according to a predetermined shift pattern selected ~~from~~ among a plurality of shift patterns based on an accumulated display time at each shift pattern, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of 1 to 5 pixels from a predetermined position.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an instruction unit for instructing display of the icon image on the monitor,

wherein the determining unit determines a display position of the icon image according to an instruction by the instruction unit.

Claim 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit for calculating and storing ~~an~~ the accumulated display time in respective display positions determined by the determining unit,

wherein the determining unit determines that a position where the accumulated display time is minimum among the respective display positions is a display position of the icon image.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image generation unit for generating an object image,

wherein the display control unit controls display such that the object image generated by the image generation unit is superimposed on the first image as the icon image and displayed.

Claim 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image size conversion unit for expanding or reducing the icon image,

wherein the display control unit controls display such that the icon image expanded or reduced by the image size conversion means is superimposed on the first image.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the image size conversion unit expands or reduces the first image, and the display control unit displays the first and icon images expanded or reduced by the image size conversion unit on an identical screen of the display means.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:  
an input step for inputting first image data and icon image data;  
a determining step for determining a display position of the icon image;  
and

a display control step for superimposing one of the first image and the icon image on the other and displaying the first and icon images on a monitor such that the icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining step;

wherein in the determining step, determining successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image according to a predetermined shift pattern selected ~~from~~ among a plurality of shift patterns based on an accumulated display time at each shift pattern, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of 1 to 5 pixels from a predetermined position.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a instruction step for instructing display of the icon image on the monitor,

wherein in the determining step, a display position of the icon image is determined according to an instruction issued in the instruction step.

Claim 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a storage step for calculating and storing ~~an~~ the accumulated display time in respective display positions determined in the determining step,

wherein in the determining step, a position where the accumulated display time is minimum among the respective display positions is determined as a display position of the icon image.

Claims 13-26. (Cancelled).